

**Amendment to the Specification:**

On page 1, line 20, please add the following:

Summary of the Invention

The present invention overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art with a multi service platform system described herein. In an embodiment, the present invention is directed to a multi-service platform that includes a switch node, a plurality of payload nodes and a packet switch backplane. The switch node is coupled to receive a DS3 signal, and the switch node translated the received DS3 signal into a packet-based signal. The packet switched backplane is coupled to the switch node and the plurality of payload nodes. The packet-based DS3 signal is distributed to one or more of the plurality of payload nodes via the packet switched backplane. In another embodiment, a method is disclosed that includes the steps of receiving a DS3 signal at a switch node, translating the DS3 signal to a packet-based signal at the switch node and distributing the data from the packet-based DS3 signal to one or more of a plurality of payload nodes via a packet switched backplane.